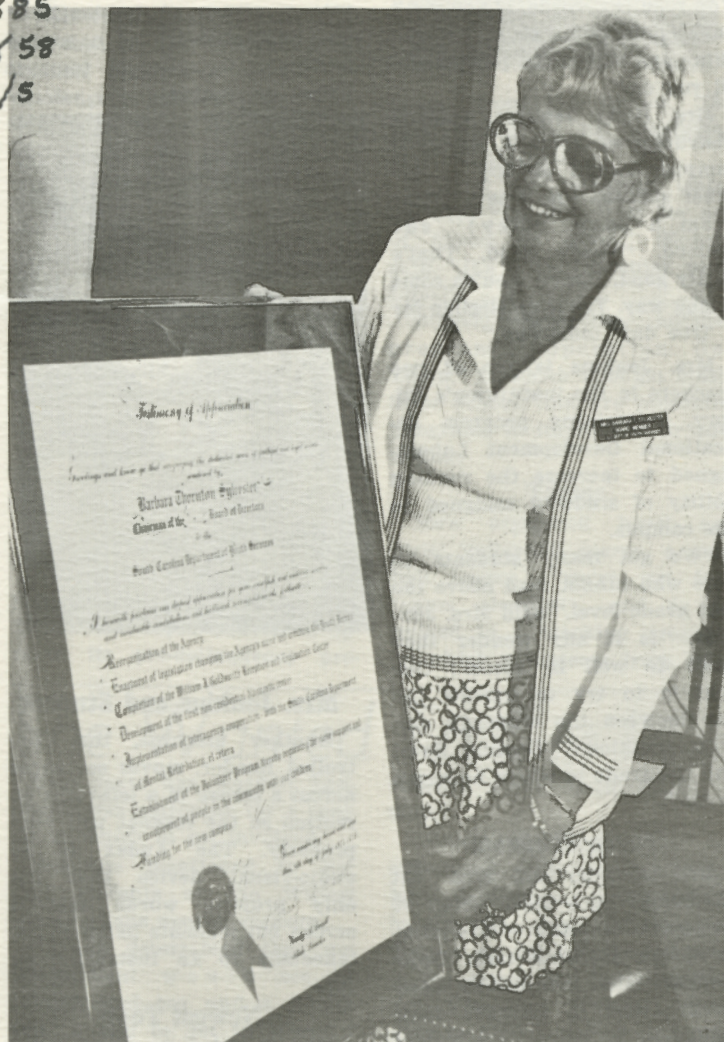


Palmer Succeeds Mrs. Sylvester as Chairman

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Mrs. Barbara Sylvester Reads Testimony . . .

Columbia mortician E. Perry Palmer became chairman of the Board of Directors of the Department of Youth Services at the board's July meeting.

He succeeds Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester of Florence, chairman since 1971.

Other officers elected were John F. Henry, North Charleston, vice chairman and Mrs. Lula Harper, Graniteville, secretary.

Just prior to the election, Mrs. Sylvester recounted some of the progress of the agency since 1969, when she first became a board member. "Each of you," she told the board, "have had a great part to play in our suc-

cesses. The success of this agency is your success, too."

Mrs. Sylvester and board member Nicholas P. Mitchell, III were honored for their service to the agency, Mitchell, whose term is to end in August, received a silver serving dish commemorating his tenure as a board member. A Greenville attorney, Mitchell was appointed to the board in 1971.

State Director Grady A. DeCell presented Mrs. Sylvester a "Testimony of Appreciation" which marked the most significant accomplishments of her administration.

The new board chairman is a native of Sumter. He is a grad-



. . . As E. Perry Palmer Assumes Chairmanship

uate of A & T College in Greensboro, N.C. He received his professional training with the American Academy of Funeral Services.

Mr. Palmer is former chairman of the board of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, immediate past president of the S. C. Morticians Association, a member of the executive committee of the Pee Dee Area Boy Scouts of America and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. He is an advisory board member of BSA Region No. 6.

Palmer is married to the former Grace Brooks of Aiken. He was appointed to the board by

Gov. John C. West in March, 1971.

Henry is associated with Jack Krawcheck, Inc. in North Charleston. He is a native of Crossett, Ark.

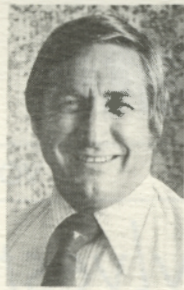
Mrs. Harper, who replaces Mrs. Juanita W. Goggins of Rock Hill in February, is a mother of five children. She teaches remedial reading at Jefferson Junior High School in Bath.

Wife of Florence physician Dr. Joseph G. Sylvester, Mrs. Sylvester has long been an advocate for problem children. She was instrumental in the creation of the S. C. Department of Mental Retardation, and helped

Director's Dialogue...

by
Grady A. Decell

(SECOND OF TWO PARTS)



Many services for youth are fragmented. As society changes, new services for youth must constantly be devised.

Youth problems also enter all areas of social concern — alcoholism, poverty, domestic problems, and drugs. Too often agencies work exclusively in one area, forgetting about our youth.

The Youth Bureau Division of the S.C. Department of Youth Services assists in the coordination of programs for children. The philosophy of the Youth Bureau is, "find a place in the community for the troubled child. Find a way to meet his needs, near his home if at all possible."

The primary goal of the Youth Bureau is to keep the child in the community, not in an institution. Regional Youth Bureaus are being developed to keep the child close to his parents, or guardians, relatives and friends. We believe that the closer he is to home, the more real will be his experience.

If, for some reason the child's own home won't aid in his rehabilitation, he may be referred to a group home in or near his community. These homes are staffed with professional social workers, youth counselors and volunteers. While living in a group home, he receives counseling and training and continues his education in the public schools.

Regional Youth Bureau Divisions are being developed across the state. They are helping to unify resources for children. Many resources don't now exist in some of the state's less populated areas.

Some 2,500 children, under 17, are now being assisted in programs in Greenville, Charleston, Spartanburg, Anderson, Columbia and Rock Hill.

The Youth Bureau Division is constantly striving to prevent the child's involvement in the juvenile justice system; to develop community based treatment programs; and to help develop a public information program so more communities and individuals might be aware of the plight of troubled children. We all need to work together to better serve their needs.

Continued from Page 1

in the development of Camp Courage, a recreational camp for retarded children.

The Testimony of Appreciation cited among her major accomplishments the reorganization of the agency including the name change to Youth Services and the creation of the Youth Bureau; developing funding for the new \$5 million campus; developing the first non-residential diagnostic center and the indi-

vidual student treatment plan.

Under her leadership the Reception and Evaluation Center and Willow Lane campuses became co-educational. She spearheaded community involvement with a volunteer program and encouraged the signing of an agreement with the Department of Mental Retardation, whereby children with severe disorders could get help.

The Youth Advocate is published monthly by the S. C. Department of Youth Services, Box 21487, Columbia, S.C. 29221. It is entered as third class mail at the Columbia Post Office. All inquiries to the newsletter, including address changes, should be addressed to the editor.

This newsletter is printed by Youth Services students on the John G. Richards campus.

E. Perry Palmer Chairman
Grady A. Decell Director
Edward B. Borden Editor



Reading Lab Is Helping Students

"George, you cut the machine on this way. That's it, hold down the button. Now the words will scan through the projector onto the wall. See? You read the words. If you don't understand one, stop the machine and repeat the process until you do."

Mrs. Betty Jenkins, reading instructor at John G. Richards campus, moved quickly to another student who was working from a book. "Hey!" she beamed. "That's good. That's really good, Henry. You've come a long way. You'll be eligible for a 'free day' tomorrow."

Mrs. Jenkins is one of two teachers in the institution's Ed-tory, a training program educational Development Labora-signed to increase the reading ability of students assigned to the campus.

"We get many students in here who cannot read above the first grade level," said Mrs. Jenkins. "Is it any wonder they don't do well in school? Our goal is to try to narrow the gap between the student's current functional reading level and the grade in which he ought to be."

Teach Students

Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Pat Lineberger each teach about 50 students a semester — five classes of ten students each. Some students must take double classes in order to improve their ability.

"In some cases, we can bring them up three grade levels," said Mrs. Jenkins. "We'd like to bring them up to their chronological grade level. But it's hard work, and very time consuming."

The teachers make the classes as interesting as possible. "I've had students who've cut up in other classes, but never here," said Mrs. Jenkins. "We do games, phonics, remembering things in sequence, memory games and spelling games."

"When a student does very well, is ahead of where he should be, or has worked awfully hard, I give him a 'free day.' He can read anything he wants to, listen to music on tapes, anything within reason. It's an incentive type of thing."

Originally funded under Title I monies, the program features very sophisticated equipment. For instance, there is a Tachistoscope, which flashes symbols onto a screen at one-tenth or one one-hundredth of a second bursts — in order to improve visual perception.



Mrs. Jenkins and Student

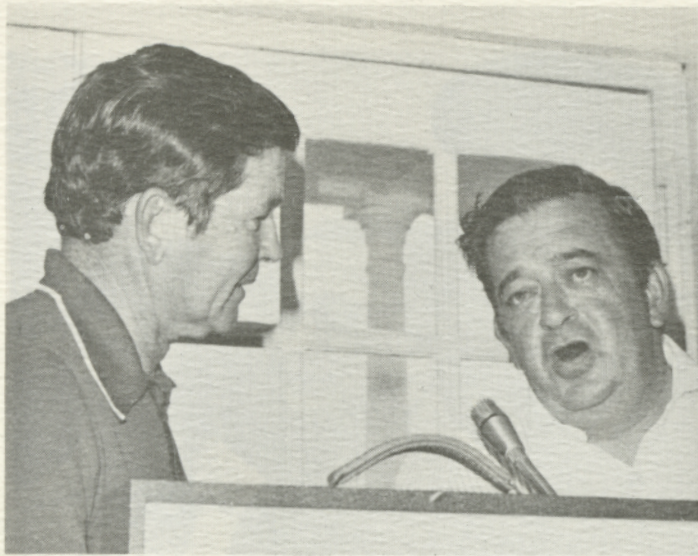
Another machine, the Controlled Reader, moves sentences across a screen in a left-right direction so the student will read properly. The Audex is an audio-visual device that not only projects words onto a screen but students listen simultaneously to an instructor on tape.

Newest Tools

Mrs. Jenkins is proudest of her two newest testing instruments, an Orthorater, which tests students for visual acuity, depth perception and color blindness. "We found a great many people need help. Once we discover that they do need assistance, we work through Vocational Rehabilitation to get them to see an eye doctor."

The Ready Eye photographs students' eyes as they read and makes a pictorial graph of eye movements to detect weak eyes, near sightedness, problems in motility (left-right eye movement) and visual perception.

"Are we doing any good? Oh, yes," said the diminutive Greenville native. "You get so involved, though, and the process takes so long, that you just want to do more."



Below: Mary Brown, Willow Lane. Right: Eleanor McKinney and Teri Rhodes, Central Office.

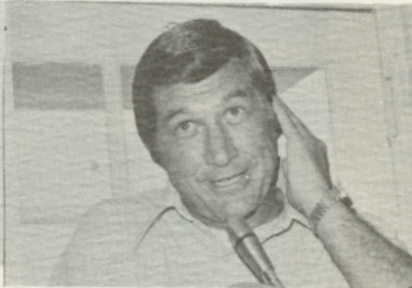


Horace Youngblood and emcee Dave Wright ham it up.



Larry Ellis, director, S. C. State Employees Assn.

The Department of Youth Services' annual meeting was held July 8 at Ted O. McGee Recreation Center in Lexington. Some 225 employees, guests, board members and friends attended.



State Director Grady Decell, above. Left and lower left: Rene Taylor, Central Office and Jackie Schohn, Mod.



Decell (above) congratulates Mrs. Leacy Godbold, Female Youth Counselor of the Year. Below: Frank Furtick, Bill Lucas and John Berry, Maintenance.





Kids' Day

Almost 70 students and clients of the agency toured Charleston Air Force Base and the Charleston Navy Yard in May, as guests of the 315th Military Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve. Kids from campuses in Columbia and Florence, and from the Charleston Youth Bureau participated in activities that included tours of aircraft and Naval ships. Work on the project began in February when (above) Lt. Col. David Webber, commander of the 315th and Mrs. Webber toured the agency, shown here with Edward C. Thomas, Deputy Director for Institutional Services. The tour's success is indicated by a happy client. Other pictures show a tour of a C-141; Maj. Yarchever explaining the controls and a sentry dog demonstration.



Blakely Likes St. Luke's Challenge

Leroy Blakely delicately halved the meat and bread sandwich with his fingers. He leaned back in his chair, gazed briefly at the graying sky from his office window, sighed and slowly munched his food. Blakely has eaten a lot of lunches at his desk lately.

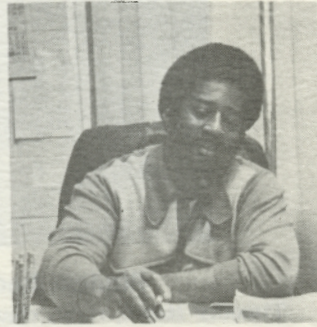
The thirty-year-old ex baseball star, ex-cop, ex-high school football coach has sensed the challenge in his new job as Unit Supervisor of St. Luke's Center in Columbia. The Center is part of the community-based program of the Youth Bureau Division's Columbia Regional Office.

"We got to get the kids together," he said. "And we need programs for the old folks, too. But primarily the kids. They got a lot of free time on their hands."

He punched the air with his massive fists to emphasize his points.

Agreement

The Agency last year signed a long-term agreement with St. Luke's Episcopal Church to operate its pre-delinquency pro-



grams from the Center. The idea seems to be benefitting both institutions.

"We've got tumbling teams for girls and boys from the age of fifteen on down," Blakely said. "It's a very popular pastime."

Blakely supervises another program, "Operation Get Down," in which kids get meals after school, and are presented programs to improve their education.

Teams

He's organized boys' and girls' volleyball teams, a softball league ("we've got four teams already"), and is involved in a tracking program, in which volunteers from Allen

and Benedict Universities are working with children that have been identified as delinquent or pre-delinquent by probation officers from the Richland County Family Court.

The Center is also sponsoring a Survival Education Program designed to help families cope with today's society.

Allen Graduate

Blakely is a graduate of Allen University, with a major in social science and a minor in psychology and education. In 1964 he was ranked fourth in the nation among college pitchers.

"But then," he said, "I threw my arm out. Too many long games. I doubt I could throw a ball across the street."

From 1966 to 1974 he worked as a teacher in Paterson, N.J., teaching the fifth and eighth grades.

He has worked towards an MA in special education, taking courses from William Paterson College. His specialty is teaching the emotionally disturbed, the slow learner and the socially maladjusted.

He taught the emotionally disturbed and the socially mal-

adjusted and supervised a summer program for the handicapped at Camp Rainbow, Newfoundland, N.J. from 1968-1974.

Shot Twice

At the same time he served as a patrolman for the Paterson Housing Police. Blakely said he enjoyed his work as a police officer despite being shot twice — once in the shoulder and the other in the thigh.

"We were patrolling in a car once," he said, "and I felt a twinge in my shoulder. I didn't think anything of it. But then I noticed some blood, and I said, 'Hey! I'm shot!' My partner said, 'Aw, you're fooling.' And I showed him the blood. 'No, I'm not,' I said."

Blakely finished his career in Paterson as assistant football coach at Kenney High School, a position that gave him much satisfaction because of his athletic background.

"I decided to come back home a year ago," he said. "My parents and the rest of my family are from here, you know. So I contacted some friends, and one lead led to a job with the De-

Continued on Page 4

She Wanted To Get Involved

Two years ago Mardell Lanfranco was searching for a project in which to get involved.

Someone mentioned to her that students at the Willow Lane campus needed visitors.

"I was determined that my involvement would not be cookies and tea and a 'thank you.' I had to get to where I could touch them, where I could add some meaning in their lives."

At a recent Board of Directors meeting, Mrs. Lanfranco, and Enid O'Neill of the St. Andrews Woman's Club, Mrs. William J. Stone, Jr., and the Alston Wilkes Society were honored for their volunteer work at the institution.

Mrs. Stone is an individual volunteer, working through the St. Andrews Baptist Church.

Interested

The St. Andrews Woman's Club became interested in the 20 girls at Gamma II cottage. "We worked with them in modeling, makeup, manicure and hairstyling," said Mrs. O'Neill.

The volunteers, who were recognized in a ceremony at Willow Lane March 17, see their

charges about three times a month.

"Some times the visits are structured, sometimes not," said Mrs. Lanfranco. "We've done handicrafts, gone skating, to the zoo, to get hamburgers, and to the circus, for example. The S.C. Federated Women's Clubs gave us \$200 to use on this project."

The women see their efforts as worthwhile, though they admit progress with the girls is slow. "It was a structured program designed to help them improve their appearances."

Much Happier

"We felt," Mrs. Lanfranco added, "that if they liked themselves, they would be much happier people. They don't have the older friends such as sisters, mothers or friends of the family that kids in the communities do. So we're filling a need."

Chief of Chaplains the Rev. Horace Youngblood said, "They've filled a vital need on campus. They're providing a touch that we — as staff members — cannot do." The Rev. Youngblood is in charge of the Agency's volunteer program.

Mrs. O'Neill said they had invited the children, on occasion, to their homes. "I guess we're showing them a model of family life. A lot of them come from broken homes."

Trust

"Trust. That's the word," said Mrs. Lanfranco. "They truly don't trust you very much. We

have absolutely just scratched the surface."

"I have a feeling that these children would have turned out the same as my children, had they been given the same advantages," Mrs. O'Neill mused. "I feel like I'm sharing my happy home life with them, and I enjoy it."



VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

Board Member E. Perry Palmer chats with Mrs. William J. Stone, Jr., left, and Mardell Lanfranco and Enid O'Neill, right, who were honored for their volunteer work at Willow Lane. Mrs. Stone is a volunteer from the St. Andrews Baptist Church and Mrs. Lanfranco and Mrs. O'Neill are members of the St. Andrews Woman's Club. The Alston Wilkes Society was also recently honored for volunteer work at the Agency.

PROFILE: E. Perry Palmer Chairman of the Board

NOTE: Columbia funeral director E. Perry Palmer assumed the chairmanship of the Board of the S. C. Department of Youth Services in the July board meeting Profile interviewed Mr. Palmer to discern the approach he would take as board chairman, and the direction the agency would assume for the near future.

PROFILE: What will your goals be, Mr. Palmer?

PALMER: I hope we will continue to place even greater emphasis in deterring students from needing the institutions. We need to continue to develop our community programs. We need to work with the acting-out students and their parents and/or guardians.

PROFILE: How can we accomplish these goals?

PALMER: Through our community-based programs; through the communities themselves, and through social workers and counselors who work with the grass roots elements in the communities. I feel we have to know the existing structures in the communities—the clubs, organizations and other services—so that we can work within the confines of our capabilities to provide the adjunct services.

PROFILE: How about the student or client? Should we work with any particular group?

PALMER: Those students that come from the greatest deprived areas need the greatest help. We should appeal to this populace first.

PROFILE: How about the role of the institutions?

PALMER: There will be a lessening of institutionalization for our students. I see us making steps in that direction now.

PROFILE: What will be the role of John G. Richards School when the New Campus is completed?

PALMER: The stigma that is attached to the John G. campus can be lessened. I would hope we can make some changes with that particular campus in order to make it more palatable to the general public.

PROFILE: Any specific recommendations?

PALMER: No, not at this time.

PROFILE: How about staff, sir?

PALMER: Our staff has a fine history of contributing more than its share towards the rehabilitation of our students. I hope no one will think of his job as just nine-to-five. We need to continue to contribute our love, our loyalty and therapy to our students or else we will be as the proverbial "tinkling cymbal."

PROFILE: What is our status on the goals we have sought so far?

PALMER: We have attained some goals. We have a long ways to go. Our ultimate goal is that we must work towards disintegration, so that we will finally not exist at all. Unfortunately, this is not possible. In the meantime, there's still plenty of catching up to do.

Around Campus...

Visiting the farm recently were students from St. Joseph's Catholic School, Shandon Methodist Church Kindtrgarten, Bethel United Methodist Church Kindergarten, Suzy Q. Day Care Center and the Columbia Urban League program for exceptional children . . . One of the groups that gave us the most fun was the Easter Seals kindergarten, 12 students, 12 parents and 6 therapists. The kids had a ball . . . Chaplain L. Fong Chong, John G. Richards, spoke to the Union United Methodist Church . . . Deputy Director J. P. Neal, Jr., and Chief Chaplain Horace Youngblood spoke to the Benedict-Morris colleges pastor's executives at the Blue Ridge Assembly near Asheville, NC. . . Rev. Al Brodie, R&E, is acting as a resource person for an advisory committee on a foster care program . . . He's also serving as a resource person for the Aiken Youth Advisory Council . . . Behavior Mod and John G. Richards have their own newspapers. John G's is called *The Informer* and Behavior Mod's is *The Rap Sheet*. Both are written by students . . . The Rev. Youngblood spoke to the St. Andrews Optimist Club about the schools . . . Another variation on our "Have You Hugged Your Kid Today?" theme, Rev. Youngblood, picking up from an editorial in *The State*, asks, "Have You Honored Your Parents Today?" . . .



Student Body Vice President

Timothy Moore, right, chats with Youth Bureau Social Worker Pat Sanders on the campus of Anderson Junior College. Ms. Sanders worked with Moore after he was a student at the Reception and Evaluation Center. Now, the rising junior will be the student body vice president next year.

Youth Former R&E Student

Timothy Allen Moore settled in the highbacked outdoor swing and talked about his plans for the summer.

The blond, 19-year-old Cincinnati native had just been elected vice president of the student body of Anderson Junior College for the next year. He is a member of the college's track team and deeply involved in student activities and religious life on the campus.

It's hard to believe, he said, that just four years ago he was in the S.C. Department of Youth Services' Reception and Evaluation Center. The Center conducts tests and recommends treatment programs for juveniles sent by courts.

Almost Lost

"I came very close to becoming lost," said Moore, "but Chaplain (Al) Brodie talked with me many times, and I found Jesus."

Moore was 15 when he became involved with the "wrong crowd. We were doing all kinds of stuff. Breaking and entering into schools, for instance, just to see if we could get away with it."

Moore was caught and sent to the Reception and Evaluation Center for testing.

"My father had a drinking problem and my mother deserted us. My three brothers, three sisters and I were going through a serious family crisis at the time."

Chaplain Brodie, said Moore, was "really neat. I felt very close to him. He showed me a lot and worked with me. He brought me around to a new way of thinking."

Since then, said Moore, he's counselled younger kids and worked with Young Life in Colo-

rado last year. He'll go to camp with the organization for six weeks this summer.

"My grades improved when I got home. I was on the Honor Roll in high school. I also played football, track and basketball."

What was it like?

"Well, I was scared to death. You hear all the stories about how rough it is. I expected whippings. It was better than I thought. The people are very good here."

Moore became an office boy at R&E, one of the most prestigious jobs on campus. "I ended up talking a lot to the staff and counseling with the other kids," he said. "I was fortunate in that I got a chance to have an overview of the entire program, and it certainly helped me."

Of his future, Moore said, "I want to work for a couple of years. If I don't get a scholarship offer at a Senior College, I'll probably work a couple of years, then go to a small Christian school. I like the atmosphere. What do I want to do? Get a degree in counseling or psychology. I want to work with kids."

Continued from Page 5

partment of Youth Services, in the Columbia Regional office of the Youth Bureau Division. Then this opening came. So I took it."

A visitor mentioned the nine-piece student band Blakely has started, and the record hops that are being held.

He folded his hands on the desk and narrowed his eyes. His head bobbed in affirmation. "Yeah," he said slowly, "I can see things blending. We're slowly getting it together."